

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	ORDER GRANTING
BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE)	EXTENSION OF TIME
FOR A CONSTRUCTION PERMIT FOR 23)	
MILES OF 230 KV ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION)	EL01-025
LINE AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES)	

On October 11, 2001, Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric) submitted to the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) an application for a permit to construct transmission facilities as defined at SDCL 49-41B-2.1(2). According to the application, these facilities consist of an asynchronous tie that would connect the eastern and western transmission grids near Rapid City, South Dakota. The rating of the tie would be in the range of 100 to 300 million volt-amperes, depending on the capabilities of the associated transmission system. The project is known as the Rapid City Tie Project and includes: approximately 23 miles of 230 kilovolt transmission line; a line terminal at the western edge of the project referred to as the South Rapid City Substation; an asynchronous tie converter station four miles southeast of the South Rapid City Substation; and a line terminal bay at the existing New Underwood Substation, at the eastern edge of the project. The project is located completely in Pennington County, South Dakota.

On October 18, 2001, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing to interested individuals and entities. Applications for party status were due by December 10, 2001. On October 18, 2001, the Commission received a Petition for Leave to Intervene from Black Hills Power, Inc. (BHP). On December 3, 2001, the Commission received applications for party status from David S. Lamb and Andrea Andersen. By order dated November 14, 2001, the Commission granted intervention to BHP. By order dated December 20, 2001, the Commission granted party status to David S. Lamb and Andrea Andersen. A public input hearing was held as scheduled on November 28, 2001, in Rapid City. On January 25, 2002, the Commission received a Motion for Extension of Time for Final Determination from Basin Electric. Basin Electric requested the time be extended to May 7, 2002. SDCL 49-41B-25 requires the Commission to act on an application within six months.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-1, 49-41B-2, 49-41B-2.1, 49-41B-4, 49-41B-11, 49-41B-12, 49-41B-13, 49-41B-15, 49-41B-16, 49-41B-17, 49-41B-17.1, 49-41B-21, 49-41B-22, 49-41B-25, 49-41B-26, 49-41B-33, 49-41B-38, and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of February 5, 2002, the Commission considered this matter. Michele Farris recommended approval of the extension of time, but to leave the date open-ended. Basin Electric did not object. The Commission unanimously voted to grant an extension of time to Basin Electric with the date left open-ended. It is therefore

ORDERED, that an extension of time is hereby granted with the date left open-

ended.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 8th day of February, 2002.

<p style="text-align: center;">CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</p> <p>The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.</p> <p>By: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

PAM NELSON, Commissioner

ROBERT K. SAHR, Commissioner